[Translation] 209

Advancing of Loans to Buisnessmen/ Industrialists by Nationalised Banks

2470. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some nationalised banks have advanced short-term loans to businessmen/industrialists in violation of rules during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) Nationalised Banks being credit institutions grant short-term advances to businessmen/industrialists in the normal banking business after assessing their need-based credit requirements. However, there is likelihood that some accounts/units may become sticky/ sick due to factors often beyond the control of the banks. With a view to minimising, the incidence of such advances, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducts financial inspection of banks regularly. After every inspection the main findings are discussed by RBI with the Chief Executives of the banks. They are impressed upon to take all necessary steps to gear up the internal control machinery and to reduce the sticky/sick advances within a time bound programme. The banks are also required to submit their half yearly progress report to RBI indicating the progress in recovery/regularisation of their sticky/sick advances.

[English] 209

Delhi Courts

2471. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'Public target courts' appearing in the Hindustan Times of February 22, 1991; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the various points brought out in the news-item including expeditious finalisation of the pending cases and to make the litigation cheap and speedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information furnished by the Delhi High Court, necessary action has been initiated by them on the various points made relating to conduct of court business, infrastructural aspects, security aspects, etc., and that complaint about the non-availability of stamps of certain denominations, presence of touts and corruption are attended to and suitable action taken by them whenever specific complaints are received. As regards tackling of the problems of arrears, various steps are being taken by the Government and the High Court. Subject to general constraint of financial resources, the strength of judicial officers as well as ancillary staff is being increased periodically to cope with the increasing work load. Procedural and jurisdictional improvements are being effected from time to time. As regards these aspects relating to advocates like strike, fees, etc., these are general and wide issues which the Government is aware of. The relevant recommendations made by the Law Commission have been brought to the notice of the Bar Council of India.

210 Taxation

Advance Tax Collections

2472. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether income-tax collections through tax deduction at source have gone up substantially over the years whereas the advance tax collections have gone down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to gear up the machinery to increase advance tax collection and to book the offenders; and

(c) the details of the advance tax collections made during 1985-86 to date, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (c) Sir, while it is true that the income-tax collections from tax deduction at source have gone up substantially over the years, it is not correct to say that the advance tax collections have gone down, as will be clear from the figures given below :

(Rs in crore)

Year	Amount of advance tax collected
1985-86	3133·90
1986-87	3601·61
1987-88	3912·07
1988-89	5432·50
1989-90	4984·54

Figures for 1990-91 are still to be compiled up.

The advance tax collections in the year 1989-90 were less than such collections in the year 1988-89 because the year 1988-89 was an exceptional year. As a consequence of an amendment relating to the definition of "previous year" in 1988-89, many assessees paid advance tax for a period of more than 12 months, whereas in 1989-90, advance tax was paid for the normal period of 12 months only.

Delay in Assessments in Search Cases

2473. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government are aware of alleged delay in taking up assessments in search cases, assessments not being made as per the laid down procedures and in a hurried fashion and overlooking vital evidence;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of assessments made by ITOs which were subjected to a surprise check to ensure that there was no irregularity in those assessments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) The assessments in search cases involve examination of voluminous documents and books of accounts. Therefore, the average time taken in the completion of such assessments is unavoidably more as compared to other assessments. However, all assessments, including search assessments, have to be completed within the time limit prescribed under the provisions of the Income-tax Act.

Assessments in respect of search cases are completed under the close supervision of senior officers to ensure that the procedures laid down are followed and all vital evidence is taken into consideration.

(c) No separate data is maintained in the Department in respect of inspection or surprise checks related exclusively to search assessments.

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Import of Cotton

2474. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of cotton imported by the Government from the various countries and the rate at which the import has been made during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise; and

(b) the break-up of the cotton distributed to the various States, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) During the cotton seasons 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91, there was no import of cotton by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.